

III. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A tensioning element (1) having:

- a U-shaped bearing bracket (2) with a first and second surface (6, 25) and two oppositely located bores, a first bore having a smaller diameter than an oppositely located second bore,
- a clamping means (3), which is mounted displaceably in the bearing bracket (2) and which comprises a clamping piece (4) interacting with the first surface (6) and a foot (5), wherein the clamping piece (4) and the foot (5) are connected together by a middle piece (7),
- a spring (8); having a first end which interacts with the second surface (25) and a second opposite end which interacts with the foot,

Characterised in that

- whereas the middle piece (7) has a smaller diameter than the foot (5), the middle piece (7) is mounted displaceably in the first bore and the spring (8) interacts, apart from with the second surface (25), with the foot (5) is mounted displaceably in the second bore.

2. (Original) A tensioning element according to claim 1, characterised in that the middle piece (7) and the foot (5) are mounted displaceably in the bearing bracket.

3. (Original) A tensioning element according to claim 2, characterised in that the clamping means (3) consists of two parts.

4. (Original) A tensioning element according to claim 3, characterised in that the clamping piece (4) and the middle piece (7) constitute the one part and the foot (5) is the other part.

5. (Original) A tensioning element according to claim 3, characterised in that the clamping piece (4) is the one part and the middle piece (7) and the foot (5) constitute the other part.

6. (Previously Presented) A tensioning element according to claim 3, characterised in that the connection between the parts is a material and/or frictional connection.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A tensioning element according to claim 1, characterised in that the bearing bracket (2) comprises an preferably annular recess (23) in the first surface (6).

9. (Currently Amended) A tensioning element according to claim 8, characterised in that the clamping piece (4) comprises an preferably annular bulge (24), which interacts with the recess (23).

10. (Currently Amended) A tensioning element according to claim 1, characterised in that it is part of a chain (13), ~~preferably where the chain comprises a chain conveyor for film webs.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A chain conveyor, ~~preferably~~ for film webs, characterised in that it comprises tensioning elements according to claim 1.

12. (Previously Presented) A means (14) for opening and closing the tensioning element (1) according to claim 1, characterised in that it comprises two ramps (15, 16), wherein the tensioning element (1) is opened with the ramp (15) and closure of the tensioning element (1) is controlled with the ramp (16).

13. (Currently Amended) A means according to claim 11, characterised in that the ramps (15, 16) are arranged at an angle to one another of ~~less than 180°, preferably < 130°, particularly preferably < 90°.~~

14. (Previously Presented) A means according to claim 12, characterised in that the gradient of each of the ramps (15, 16) is different.

15. (Previously Presented) A means (19) for opening and closing the tensioning element (1) according to claim 1, characterised in that it is a circular disk (20), the axis of rotation (21) of which is offset relative to the axis of rotation (22) of a gear wheel (17), with which a chain (13) is conveyed which comprises the tensioning elements (1).

16. (Original) A means according to claim 15, characterised in that it is mounted rotatably.

17. (Currently Amended) A means according to claim ~~12~~ 15, characterised in that it is mounted on ~~the same a~~ shaft (18) ~~as with~~ the gear wheel (17) of the chain (13).

18. (Currently Amended) A means according to claim ~~12~~ 15, characterised in that the axis of rotation (21) and/or the axis of rotation (22) are inclined relative to the vertical.